

## Rifai could head Jordan-PLO joint delegation to Geneva

By ANAN SAFADI  
Middle East Affairs Correspondent

Amman, Jordan, and Damascus have been conducting negotiations with Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organization on the possibility of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to a reconvened East peace conference in Geneva, it was learned yesterday.

Amman's former prime minister, al-Montem Rifai, who is now a political adviser to King Hussein, is mooted to head such a delegation. The 60-year-old Jordanian diplomat is widely respected for his diplomatic skills and his role in the Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation with Jordan.

The idea is reportedly backed by Jordan for three main reasons: to support the PLO's position in the Geneva talks; to forestall any possibility of the PLO's participation in the Geneva talks; and to relieve the PLO's financial difficulties.

The first of these reasons is the PLO's position in the Geneva talks. The PLO has been accused of being a "front" for the Arab world, and its participation in the Geneva talks is seen as a way to establish its credibility.

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one whose representatives have met with Israel's political pacifists about the prospects of direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. (This despite official and persistent PLO denials of such feelers.)

The third faction, most militant of all, opposes any form of PLO involvement in any kind of political negotiations with Israel. This faction is best represented by the PLO official representative in Khartoum, Abu al-Khair, who yesterday said that the Palestinians should continue their armed struggle until they wipe out Israel.

In an interview with the Sudanese news agency, al-Khair said that, even if Israel withdrew to the pre-1967-war frontiers, "establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should constitute a material counterweight to the Zionist entity and could serve as a concrete base for continuing the Palestinian struggle for the creation of a Palestinian state in the whole of Palestine."

Al-Khair is known for his close association with the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi — who, according to yesterday's Kuwaiti newspaper "Al-Qabas," is due to be dismissed in an imminent PLO reshuffle. The Kuwaiti paper said that Kaddoumi may be replaced by Khaled al-Hasan — a man favoured by Saudi Arabia, which has been pressing for a PLO reshuffle in its efforts to bolster the diplomatic drive being orchestrated by Egypt and Syria.

A PLO reshuffle would be aimed mainly at pacifying the movement's radical circles, which are rejecting the current Egyptian-Syrian notion for exploring an overall political settlement to the Israel-Arab conflict in the course of this year.

Kuwait's Minister of State, Abdul Aziz Hussein yesterday said that Arab foreign and defence ministers may meet in Saudi Arabia shortly to discuss the means of stepping up support for Arab front-line states.

(Leader — back page)

## Paris PLO office denies signing pact with Peled

By JACK MAURICE  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS. — The Palestine Liberation Organization denied yesterday it has signed a joint document with Israeli pacifists recognizing the existence of the State of Israel.

A statement from the PLO's Paris office said it would never countenance the "Zionist entity."

This statement counters the claim made in Tel Aviv on Sunday by Matti Peled, chairman of the Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, that he signed a document on these lines in Paris over the weekend.

(A brief denial by the PLO was published in yesterday's Post.)

The PLO statement said: "We can confirm that no Palestinian leader

acting on instructions from the PLO signed such a document. The PLO will not authorize any of its members to act in a way contrary to the aims of our people's struggle and the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council."

Former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France said yesterday: "I have nothing to say about the reports of this meeting. This is not the time to do so."

Mendes-France has been reported to have played the role of go-between in a series of meetings between Israeli pacifists and PLO representatives since he visited Israel last summer.

(Aldon — page 3)



AVRAHAM OFER (Uri Keren)

## Rumours of scandal mushroomed this week

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE POSSIBLE involvement of Avraham Ofer in a financial scandal was transformed from a quietly pursued police investigation into the makings of a full-fledged public affair only in the last week. Last Wednesday MK Samuel Tamir (Free Centre) submitted a parliamentary question to Police Minister Shlomo Hillel asking confirmation or denial of the reports of a police investigation of accusations against Ofer.

MK Ehud Olmert (Likud) submitted a motion with similar intent.

The accusations concerned the purchase of 150 dunams of land from Arabs in the Neve Ya'acov area, northern Jerusalem, by the Histradrut's housing corporation, Shikun Ovdim, in 1970. At that time Ofer headed the company.

The original allegations against Ofer and Shikun Ovdim were made by Yigal Laviv, an investigative reporter for the "Haolam Haze" weekly. Recently, a lawyer who had

worked with Shikun Ovdim on that sale, Haim Goshen, who is slated to appear as a prosecution witness in the Asher Yadin bribery trial, was reported to have told police that the official payment recorded for the Neve Ya'acov land deal was fictitious. The price was reported to have been recorded at IL6m, but the sellers claimed they had only received IL3.5m.

Ofer, Goshen and Shikun Ovdim's treasurer were said to have been signatories to the deal. Reports have also appeared that Yadin, at that time head of the Histradrut's holding company, Ezerat Ha'ovdim, had also been privy to the deal.

Police earlier yesterday refused to confirm or deny that they were investigating Ofer in connection with these charges. The national police spokesman said that "police were looking into numerous allegations" regarding the minister, and added

## Sought early end to probe

Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

Intimates of Avraham Ofer said yesterday he had been depressed during the last few days. He had however hoped, as late as Saturday, that the policy inquiry into allegations of malfeasance while head of Shikun Ovdim would be ended quickly.

After Sunday's Cabinet meeting, he met with Prime Minister Rabin and pressed him for an early end to the inquiry because of the mounting rumours about it. These rumours reached a climax after reports that Rabin had met on Saturday with the Ministers of Justice and Police, and the Attorney-General to discuss the course of the inquiry.

The sources said that Ofer emerged from the meeting with the Prime Minister discouraged by the realization that the inquiry would drag on longer than for just a few days and no clear conclusion was

quickly in the offing. These sources believed yesterday that it was the prospect of facing an indefinite period of uncertainty with rumours and mounting public suspicion against him, that drove the Housing Minister to take his life.

Other sources noted that Ofer was deeply hurt by the attitude of some of his Labour Party colleagues. He was by-passed in the choice for the party's campaign manager for the elections, and was affected as well by demands from some party quarters that he be dropped from the Labour Party Cabinet team in the election.

During the period before the arraignment of Asher Yadin, Ofer had repeatedly sprung to his defence. He spoke out against the public lynching to which he said Yadin was subject, asserting that Yadin should be deemed innocent until proven guilty.

## Elections set for May 17, but change still possible

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

The Knesset Law Committee yesterday agreed on May 17 as the tentative date for the Knesset elections, but left the door open to switching the date after the first reading of the draft bill on the dissolution of the Knesset.

The May 17 date was a compromise between the Likud proposal for May 3 elections and the Alignment's proposal of May 31. The first reading of the bill has not yet been put on the Knesset calendar.

Alternative suggestions of a May 12 date by Moked's Meir Pa'il and two Rakah members were rejected, as was an open proposal calling for elections 105 days after the adoption of the bill by the Knesset.

There are many objections to the tentative May 17 date. Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem is reported to have objected to holding elections on the morrow of the 10th anniversary of the Hebrew date of the reunification of Jerusalem in the Six Day War. He is said to have felt that this proximity would eclipse the festivities planned for Jerusalem Day.

On the other hand, the religious parties are uncomfortable at holding the elections so soon before Shavuot, with the possibility of having to process and transport ballot

boxes from army outposts on the holiday. The compromise bill will thus be tabled for a first reading; but the various Knesset factions will continue considering an alternative date, which can still be set between the first and second readings of the framework bill.

The committee also approved an amendment to the Knesset Elections Law increasing the deposit required from each party contesting in the elections from IL15,000 to IL40,000.

A meeting at which President Katirji was to have charged Prime Minister Rabin with the task of attempting to form a new government was abruptly postponed last night, presumably because of Housing Minister Ofer's death.

It was understood that Rabin was to have gone through the motions of trying to form a new government. These attempts would have gone on concurrently with the Knesset's processing of the dissolution bill calling for May elections. As soon as that bill is passed all attempts to form an alternative government will stop, and the current transitional government will continue in office until the formation of a new one following the elections.

## 17 reported dead in Beirut blast

BEIRUT. — A large bomb exploded outside the Beirut headquarters of the Phalangist Party yesterday, leaving 17 persons dead in the most serious terrorist incident since Arab peace-keeping forces entered the city in mid-November, Phalangist sources said.

Initial reports said more than 50 persons had been wounded in the blast.

The explosion occurred near the barracks of the Phalangist security forces on Alkawi Street in the Ashrafia section of East Beirut.

"There were bits of bodies all over the street. It was horrible," said Mrs. Sophia Antreasian, a housewife whose apartment looks over the explosion site.

The Phalangist spokesman said the explosion was a 155-mm. artillery shell. However witnesses said it appeared the blast came from charges planted in a car parked near the barracks entrance.

The Syrian peace-keeping forces in Lebanon yesterday ended their occupation of a number of newspapers as tough new censorship regulations came into effect.

The peace-keepers last month closed six daily newspapers and a weekly magazine.

The troops withdrew from newspapers including the French-language "L'Orient-Le Jour" and the independent "An-Nahar." It was not clear whether these papers would now resume publication. (UPI, Reuters)

# OFER KILLS HIMSELF

## Depressed by rumours

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT, Jerusalem Post Reporter

Housing Minister Avraham Ofer shot himself to death yesterday. He was 55.

He left a note saying he lacked the strength to withstand allegations being spread that he had embezzled public funds before he became a minister.

Police were searching for him in the afternoon but he was discovered by a passerby who spied a body in a white Volvo sedan on the Tel Baruch beach north of Tel Aviv shortly before six o'clock. The passerby summoned police who later identified the Housing Minister.

They found a .22 calibre revolver and the suicide note by the body. Ofer was alleged to have been involved in irregularities dating from the time when he headed Shikun Ovdim, the Histradrut housing corporation.

During the past few weeks a team of police investigators, headed by Nilsav-Mishne Reuven Minkowsky, head of the police investigations branch, had been examining complaints submitted by a Haolam Haze reporter, Yigal Laviv.

The minister was at his home in Jerusalem's Beit Hakerem Quarter yesterday morning. He spoke to two or three reporters who had been in steady contact with him, and then his driver took him to his home in Afeka, a suburb north of Tel Aviv. According to one report he told his driver that he would be contacting him.

Then Ofer left his home without explanation. He drove himself.

An aide who spoke to him over the phone yesterday morning said: "Such an act wasn't expected. He was in a bad mood because the investigation was taking 'another few days' and 'another few days'."

The first signs that something was amiss were discerned in his bureau in Jerusalem in the morning. The new Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Ingo Müssi, arrived for a courtesy call and was told the minister had not arrived and no one knew his whereabouts.

Police declined to disclose details of what had happened. They referred reporters to the Prime Minister's Office. There they were told there was no comment apart from the official communiqué. This announced the minister's death in Tel Aviv, and expressed condolences to the family. The statement added that funeral arrangements would be announced later.

Whether there will be a State funeral will depend on the bereaved family. Government officials last night were examining the question.

The family's wishes were also to decide whether there would be a special Cabinet session today, and this too was being checked last night.

Prime Minister Rabin was informed of the suicide at about six o'clock. He was briefed in his Jerusalem office by Police Minister Shlomo Hillel, and Police Inspector-General Haim Tabari.

Aaron Sittner writes from the Knesset:

The news reached the Knesset about an hour after the session ended. Most MKs had left for home and the ushers were preparing to close the building. However, a few Members were still in the restaurant when the news arrived.

Amnon Linn (Likud), who was a close friend of the Housing Minister from the days when Linn was a member of Mapai, told The Jerusalem Post:

## 'You journalists killed him'

By DAVID LENNON  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — "You journalists killed him," one of Avraham Ofer's sons shouted as a reporter entered the family home last night. Other journalists were shoofed away before they could reach the front door.

The single-storey house in the fashionable Afeka suburb of Tel Aviv was the target of a stream of visitors last night.

Ofer's wife and his three sons were gathered inside the house as neighbours, relatives and friends came to express their condolences.

The family only heard about the Housing Minister's suicide note from the 9 p.m. television news. One visitor said that the family was startled by this revelation and angry with the police, who took the letter away with Ofer's body

## Ofer's letter: 'My blood was spilled'

Here is a translation of the letter found by the police next to Ofer's body:

"For weeks and months I have been tortured, my blood has been spilled, I have been labelled and persecuted. This time not even my sons and my family were spared. I have no doubt that the truth will emerge that I have not embezzled and I have not stolen and everything is slander and false accusations, but I do not have the strength to bear any more.

"I also see no point in carrying on. Even when I have been proven right, everything within me is in shreds.

"One thing puzzles me: Throughout my life, I only helped as much as I could and I wronged no one. Why did they persecute me all the time? I have done something with my life, I have worked, I have created, my life was not totally useless.

"I am grateful to all those who stood by me and brought me happiness and contentment. I ask forgiveness from all my friends and my loved ones, for leaving them like this. And to my beloved wife, my sons, my daughters-in-law and to all my family: I loved you all and will love you until the last moment. Please accept this act with understanding."

Jerusalem Post: "This should serve as a general alarm signal to us all — the Government side and the Opposition. It proves what the chase after publicity and self-aggrandizement can lead to. Ironically, some of the people who led the attack on Ofer had in years past gone to him for personal favours, such as obtaining housing for themselves or members of their families."

Linn said he had spoken with Ofer last Tuesday and asked him, "Avraham, what is the truth?" To this, Ofer replied "It is all one big lie."

Linn told The Post: "I still believe it's a big lie. Ofer told me he expected to be cleared of all suspicion tomorrow (Tuesday) when parliamentary questions connected with reported police interest in some of his past activities were to be answered."

The replies were to have been given by Police Minister Shlomo Hillel or, possibly, by Prime Minister Rabin.

Also in the Knesset restaurant late yesterday evening was Yitzhak Golan (ILP). He called Ofer's death "a tragedy not only for his family but for the nation too. The news media and politicians generally should reconsider their roles, and stop lynchings. It is definitely against the spirit of democracy to air all kinds of allegations against a person before he is indicted or brought to trial," Golan said.

(Obituary — Page 2)



Debris piled up yesterday outside the sterilization plant of Sheba Medical Centre, Tel Hashomer. There, other government hospitals, the non-medical staff walked out on Sunday. The strike is to continue (Lester Millman)

## Danger of infection seen as hospital walkout continues

By SARAH HONIG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — As doctors warned of the possible spread of infection among patients if the strike by administrative and maintenance employees in 26 government hospitals is not immediately called off, yesterday's walkout by at least 100 workers was seen as a gesture of good will before the talks, but the hard-liners urged an indefinite extension until their pay demands are fully met.

As the strike entered its second day yesterday the situation at the government hospitals continued to deteriorate. Doctors in a number of hospitals serving the Greater Tel Aviv area told The Post that normal work is not immediately

scheduled between the Minister of Health and the employees' representatives. Should the employees emerge unsatisfied, however, they have already announced that they will prolong their walkout.

Moderates among them proposed yesterday that the strike be called off as a gesture of good will before the talks, but the hard-liners urged an indefinite extension until their pay demands are fully met.

As the strike entered its second day yesterday the situation at the government hospitals continued to deteriorate. Doctors in a number of hospitals serving the Greater Tel Aviv area told The Post that normal work is not immediately

restored, "there will be no avoiding danger to the patients. The wards are not filled with healthy people; and if people already in a weakened state of health are exposed to unsanitary conditions, there is no telling where it might end. They are very susceptible to infection, and the grossly unsanitary situation is surely conducive to infection."

One danger most doctors pointed to were the hospital dishes. While the strikers had made one exception — allowing kitchen staff to continue preparing meals — there is no one to wash the dishes.

In most wards the nurses volunteered to do the most urgent kitchen clean-ups, in addition to their regular duties. But being overburdened — as they already are — they could not always do a thorough job, could not do it frequently enough, and could not supervise general cleanliness.

Another source of danger are the lavatories and bathrooms, where conditions were described as appalling both by patients and by the medical staff. The shortage of clean bed linen was even more marked yesterday than on the first day of the strike, and bed-ridden and post-surgery patients continued to lie on soiled sheets which normally must be changed every few hours.

Only the most urgent surgery was performed for the second running day in most hospitals, and the processing of patients in emergency wards continued to be slow in view of the absence of the clerical staff. Even X-rays and various other tests had to be postponed if not urgent, because there were no employees to wheel stretchers.

Hospital switchboards were also out of operation, and telephone inquiries about patients' conditions could not be made.

The only improvement over the situation on Sunday was the fact that many of the nurses had made other arrangements to reach their hospitals, after the absence of the hospital bus drivers caused many nurses to reach work late on the first day of the walkout.

The Knesset mourns the death of  
**AVRAHAM OFER**  
Minister of Housing  
and conveys its deepest condolences to the family.

The Government of Israel  
announces with grief the death of  
**AVRAHAM OFER**  
Minister of Housing  
and conveys its deepest condolences to the family.

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy with local rain.

Forecast	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Jerusalem	87	7-9	10
Golan	74	6-10	10
Nahariya	73	6-10	10
Safed	68	5-8	9
Haifa Port	61	11-16	17
Tiberias	52	8-13	14
Marjeh	62	8-13	14
Afula	59	10-16	18
Shomron	58	8-12	13
Tel Aviv	71	12-16	17
B-G Airport	80	10-16	17
Aricho	73	10-16	17
Qana	76	10-16	17
Beerseba	91	7-14	17
Eilat	100-20	20	22
Tirza	33	13-21	22

## Social and Personal

The Speaker of the Knesset, Yisrael Yeshayahu, yesterday received the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Ingo Müssi, at his office.

Tiberias Mayor Moshe Tzohar held a New Year's reception yesterday for the 70 families of the UN Observers Corps here. He wished them an early return home "for lack of work here and because of peace in the area," but invited them back "as tourists and pilgrims." Their commander major Rafael Villagran (Argentine) responded on behalf of the corps.

Shulamit Aloni MK will speak, in Hebrew, on "Israel as I see it," in the Tuesday noon series of talks at the David Yellin Teachers College, Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem, today.

The Jerusalem Lions Club meets tonight at 8.30 at the Jerusalem Hilton. Dr. George Eli Walokin, neurologist and senior lecturer at Tel Aviv University, will lecture on "The Brain and Its Functions" (with slides).

The Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce (Israel) is holding a welcome luncheon in honor of the British Ambassador, Mr. J.C. Mason, and Mrs. Mason, at the Dan Hotel, Rehov Hayarkon, Tel Aviv, at 1.15 today.

**BIRTH** — To Pauline and Joel Reich, a son, Oren, grandson to Anna and Joshua Granby of London, and Haiya and Karl Reich of Ramat Gan.

## Bright boys wanted

TEL AVIV. — More than 10,000 soldiers now serving in office and service jobs will be retrained for frontline combat during 1977, Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf Mordecai Gur told a gathering of primary school heads here yesterday.

Gur, who was trying to persuade the principals to send more bright boys to the military academies attached to high schools in Tel Aviv and Haifa, emphasized the way the IDF can grow and improve within the limits of available manpower. "Recently, I went to see four girls soldiers doing a job which previously was given only to men. If the experiment succeeds, we can send 50 more men into combat. We're also taking men in their 40's who previously only did guard duty and training them for front-line fighting."

In order to accomplish all of this, and to be ready for the sophisticated wars of the future, the army needs a nucleus of officers of the kind the military academies train. So far, the Chief of Staff said, there are only about 850 graduates of the academies. Many more are needed.

"We can't lower the standard of boys accepted. They must be bright and be able to do their high school work at the country's best schools. We are trying to recruit boys from development towns in the technical academies."

The Minister of Education, Aharon Yadin, told the headmasters that the academies are important educationally as well as for defence, providing their students with an excellent education both inside and outside the classroom.

The Kamenitzer Yeshiva and Associated Institutions extend heartfelt sympathy to the Pick Family on the loss of their revered father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, the Renowned Patron of Torah.

## Reb YECHIEL MEIR

son of Reb Yaakov Pick

May the Almighty comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may you know of no further sorrow. In the continuance of Reb Yechiel Meir's good deeds of kindness and charity, we pray that you may find consolation.

The management and staff of the Ministry of Tourism offer sympathy to their colleague

## Dr. Raphael (Raymond) Bar-On and Family

on the passing of his wife, their mother

## YOCHAVED

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved

## MARGARETE HEIN

The funeral will take place at the Old Cemetery, Hof Hacarmel (main gate) at 11 a.m. today, January 4.

A bus will be available for those attending at 63 Moriya Avenue, Mount Carmel, at 10.15 a.m.

The Bereaved Family

## AVRAHAM OFER

Avraham Ofer began his career in Israel's Labour movement in the early 1940's as youth leader in the Mahanot Ha'olim and Tnuva Meuhedet pioneering youth movements, and as one of the founding members of Kibbutz Hamadiya in the Beit She'an Valley. He was an efficient and dynamic organizer, who always knew how to get things done.

Ofar was one of the young rebels in Mapai against the party machine — the Gush — of the Fifties, but later switched sides and was to become one of the faithful party bosses himself. He linked his political career with wide-spread economic activities, first with Tnuva and later with the Asidod Development Corporation, the Tel Aviv Municipality and Shikun Ovdin, the Histradut housing company, from which he moved to the Housing Ministry and to the Cabinet — his last post.

Born in a traditional home in Horoskov, Poland, in 1922, he came to Jerusalem at the age of 11 with his parents, Miriam and Shlomo Hirsch. He joined the Hagana in 1937, and graduated from the Beit Hakerem high school in the early forties.

Having been an active member in the youth movement, he was sent by his kibbutz in 1944 to help organize the Young Guard — Mishmeret Tze'ira — of Mapai, when the Ashdod Ha'avoda faction left the party.

During the 1948 War of Independence, he served with the Israel Navy, with the rank of Sgan-Aluf, and was the first commander of the Eilat naval base.

Following his release from the army, he helped found the agricultural high school Kfar Hayarkon, near Tel Aviv. Later, he organized the younger party members to protest against the old-time party establishment.

In 1952, he was appointed secretary of the Mapai Tel Aviv branch, and later served under Moshe Dayan as assistant director-general of the Agriculture Ministry. He was one of the founders of the

poultry marketing council and of Agrexco. When he left the Ministry in 1964 in disagreement with Dayan, the then Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir appointed him joint and general manager of the Ashdod Development Corporation, together with Oved Ben-Ami.

During the 1965 elections when Ben-Gurion, Dayan and Shimon Peres left Mapai to found the Rafi Party, he organized the "Citizens for Eshkol" movement, which was instrumental in Mapai's election victory.

In the 1965 elections he ran for the Tel Aviv Municipal Council, and was appointed deputy mayor in charge of slum-clearing projects. He served both under the late Mayor Mordechai Namir and under Yehoshua Rabinowitz. In 1967, he was appointed general manager of Shikun Ovdin, but continued to serve on the Tel Aviv Council.

When Sapir was secretary-general of the Labour Party in 1968, Ofar organized the party membership census which served as the basis for the merger of Mapai, Rafi and Ashdod Ha'avoda. He was in charge of the Labour Party's 1969 election campaign, following which he was elected to the Knesset. Only after Golda Meir resigned and Yitzhak Rabin became Prime Minister in June 1974, was Ofar co-opted to the Government as Housing Minister.

During his seven years as head of Shikun Ovdin, he expanded the company's activities far beyond its previous scope. He concentrated on housing projects and for young couples, but also initiated various luxury building ventures in the main cities.

He was known for his dovish views, which he often voiced with great courage, even when these were not popular with the majority of party leaders. Several months ago, he tried to mediate between Rabin and Peres in an attempt to restore party unity.

He is survived by his wife, Shoshana, and three sons Dan, Ya'acov and Nadav, and grandchildren.



Avraham Ofer (SBS)

## Success is a problem

By LEA LEVAVI

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — If you had mentioned the idea of an "open university" to anyone at political or academic standing in Britain in the early 1960's, you would have received a blank look or a supercilious negative.

Baroness Lee of Ashridge, Ancrum Bevan's widow, who, as James Lee, Britain's Minister for the Arts in the second half of the 1960's, was the major political supporter of Britain's Open University, told the Open University's story yesterday to the staff of Everyman's University, which is patterned after the British institution.

She said that opposition to the idea came not only from the academic community — which was afraid of encroachment on its territory — but also from some Labour Party activists who felt adult education courses would be more appropriate for working people.

"We didn't start at a lower level and work up because we knew we'd never reach university level that way. Our first aim was to set up a university which would have the same high standards as any other, even if it taught over radio and television, by correspondence and in short residential sessions during the summers. Now that we've fought and won that battle, we can cater to people who need lower-level adult education courses in an open high school which we hope to establish soon."

The civil servants who had hitherto opposed the idea now want jobs at the Open University, she said.

"We have the problem of success. Our resources aren't sufficient to meet the demand for our services."

## 'Dovish' Rabin woos Mapam

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday met Mapam's

senior leaders in an attempt to convince the left-wing party to continue its alignment with Labour.

Mapam's political secretary, Natall Feder, told The Jerusalem Post he had noticed a slightly increased readiness on the part of Rabin to yield territory taken during the Six Day War.

Rabin expressed readiness to yield territory "on all fronts," including the West Bank, in the context of a full peace agreement, rather than the Labour Party's policy, expressed in the "14 points," which states that Labour is ready for "territorial compromise." (The 14 points do not say "on all fronts.") But the Prime Minister did not go as far as he did at the opening of the Mapam convention last June, when he spoke of "far-reaching con-

cessions" on all fronts. The West Bank is the main issue. The majority in the Cabinet is reported to support the "Allon Plan," which envisages withdrawal from most territories there, but a debate has been avoided. Mapam wanted the readiness to withdraw to be included in the Alignment election platform.

Minister Victor Shemtov explained that such an inclusion would give the next government the authority to negotiate a territorial settlement on the eastern front without necessitating a referendum or elections once an agreement is worked out.

But Shemtov's demand is opposed by several Labour leaders, including former Prime Minister Golda Meir, who said on Friday that a government may initial an agreement but, because of the sensitivity of the issue, it must hold elections to win endorsement.

Rabin and Mapam also differed on the Palestinian issue. Feder dis-

puted the Prime Minister's assertion that the key to the problem is the 4 states' refusal to accept the existence of Israel. Feder said another "key" is the Palestinian issue.

Feder told The Post Rabin was trying to come closer to the Mapam stand, but it was not clear whether the Labour Party would back Feder. Accordingly, Mapam's political secretary, Elazar Givon, asked which forum would recommend the policy amendment.

Mapam expects a reply to a question about the forum at next meeting with Rabin, on Friday.

Rabin had earlier told Mapam all speakers at Friday's meeting, the subcommittee preparing the election platform for Labour's convention, supported territorial concessions for peace.

## Optimism prevails at Herut convention

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — "This is a victory convention," speaker after speaker stressed at the Herut convention, which opened deliberations at Beit Jabotinsky yesterday. But the optimism was tempered by a warning that the road to winning at the polls will be a difficult one.

Changing the electoral system emerged as a central theme of the day's discussions, moved here after Sunday night's festive opening in Jerusalem. The Herut spokes-

man, Eliyahu Ben Eliezer, said that optimism was flowing strongly in the direction of changing the system of proportional representation to a combination of regional and proportional systems.

MK Haim Landan suggested the possibility of electing 80 Knesset members on a regional basis, and the remaining 40 by proportional representation.

This change in direction over previous Herut policy on elections to the Knesset is based on a diminution of the traditional Herut fear

that Labour would enjoy a vast majority in a regional system. A Herut official told The Post that the fear had subsided in light of the Alignment's poor showing in opinion polls.

Aluf (res.), Ezer Weizman, is to run the Likud election campaign, echoed party leader Meir Begin's appeal to Premier not to travel to the U.S. head of a caretaker government. He also warned President-elect Carter against over-involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict, which Weizman said, be out of office by July.

## Yadin, Sharon differ on issues, won't merge

Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSEBA. — Yigael Yadin, the leader of the Democratic Movement for Change, said yesterday that basic differences in opinion stopped his movement from uniting with Ariel Sharon's Shomron movement.

Yadin said he had met with Sharon three times, and that the last meeting yesterday morning ended without the two leaders agreeing on central issues. Yadin was speak-

ing yesterday to students at the Ben-Gurion University in Beerseba. The two movements, Yadin said, do not differ on the issue of electoral reform. He also said he had reached agreement with Sharon that the two new parties would not attack each other in the campaign.

On compulsory arbitration, Yadin said he favours such arbitration for essential services, but added that "essential services" should be defined by law. The Histradut, Yadin said, has too many powers — a

relic, he said, of pre-State days. He said the Histradut should be a union organization, and should be allowed to own vast industries.

In reply to a question, Yadin said the Palestinian problem would be solved in an Arab state. He would be formed on both sides of the Jordan River, but leaving it control of the river. He said "if the Palestinians take over a peace settlement would be closer."

## Sylvia Raphael weds Oslo lawyer

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Sylvia Raphael, who was convicted in 1974 of killing a suspected Black September terrorist in Norway and expelled after serving part of her five-and-a-half-year sentence, has returned to Oslo after marrying the lawyer who defended her.

The Jerusalem Post learned from a reporter at the Oslo newspaper "Dag Bladet" that the couple, who were married in South Africa last week, are planning to settle in Norway. The government has not yet decided whether to grant her permission to stay.

The groom, Annus Schjoed Jr., 55, who is divorced, is recognized as

one of Norway's top lawyers. Miss Raphael, 39, was born to a Christian mother and a Jewish father in South Africa, and settled in Israel a few years before the killing.

Five defendants were found guilty of taking part in the murder of Ahmed Bouchiki, a Moroccan waiter, who was gunned down by shots from a car on a street in Lillehammer. The prosecution blamed the killing of Bouchiki on the Israeli Mossad intelligence service, but said the Mossad had "mistaken him" for somebody else. A sixth defendant, an Israeli, was acquitted.

After serving one-third of her prison term, Miss Raphael was released "for humanitarian and health reasons" in May 1975. She went to South Africa, where she renewed her acquaintance with Schjoed, a lawyer in the trial.

Schjoed went to the Ministry of Justice shortly after his arrival in Norway, where he had married Miss Raphael. The lawyer — famous World War II pilot — was not told whether his wife would be allowed to stay in the country. (Miss Raphael was "asked to leave" Norway after her release from prison, but was not formally expelled.)

The "Dag Bladet" reporter to The Post that the issue of Sylvia Raphael was "very touchy," and that the Norwegian public "is very glad that she has come back."

## Egged-Dan clash feared today in Bat Yam

By SARAH HONIG

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Egged and Dan drivers may clash in the Greater Tel Aviv area this morning as three Dan bus lines are extended into Bat Yam.

Lines 40, 42 and 44 will extend from Jaffa into Bat Yam despite stiff opposition from Egged, which says the move will further undermine its already shaky financial situation.

The Transport Ministry maintains that Egged should welcome Dan's extensions as "assistance," especially since Egged has had to limit its own services recently.

Egged drivers, however, threaten that today they will not be cutting down on service but doing their own expansions, by invading "Dan territory" in Tel Aviv proper. Egged lines, they say, will not end in the central bus terminal, but will extend their routes and bring passengers from out of town into the various neighbourhoods of the city. This may well result in clashes between members of the two co-

operatives, as was the case in the mid-1960's when Dan services were first introduced to Bat Yam, then still an exclusive Egged domain. At the time Egged drivers blocked roads and fist-fights broke out.

Bat Yam Mayor Yitzhak Walker, representatives of the Transport Ministry and police will ride the first number 40 bus-line from Bat Yam to Tel Aviv at 5.00 a.m.

The introduction of Dan service to Bat Yam next week is expected to result in even more severe disturbances. Holon has thus far been regarded as exclusive Egged territory and Dan had been barred from there even though residents had to transfer buses to reach central Tel Aviv.

Egged's recent cuts in services have hit hard at residents of settlements in the North. Egged yesterday cancelled its lines to Kibbutz Yitzhak and Kibbutz Shimon, leaving the kibbutz without any public transport. Egged has also cancelled its services to Kfar Blum, Sde Nehemia, Amir and Shamir after 7 p.m.

## Thousands at funeral of rabbi believed a mekubal

By AARON SEITNER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Thousands of persons gathered in Jerusalem's Gush quarter yesterday afternoon for the funeral of Rabbi Yitzhak Hacohen Hoberman, who died Sunday night. Burial was at Har Hamenuhot.

Almost totally blind and partially paralysed, Rabbi Hoberman arrived in this country from Poland after World War II. Little was known about the man who lived in a primitive hut on the edge of a

large empty lot in Ra'anana. But in recent years, word began circulating throughout Hassidic circles here and abroad concerning his piety. Many believed he was a genuine mekubal (a Jew who had succeeded in fathoming the mysticism of the Kabbala).

As such, he became very sought after for blessings. Even the present patriarchs of the large Hassidic dynasties, including the Rabbi of Gur, came to Rabbi Hoberman's hut in recent years to ask his help in prayer for the sick or unfortunate.

Hundreds — perhaps thousands — visited Ra'anana and waited for hours to consult with the frail, short and elderly man in the simple anteroom of his hut, or on his porch. If he was resting, they would wait patiently until the curtain on the screen door was pulled aside and he appeared. He wore his prayer shawl and yarmulke (phylacteries) all day long, till sundown.

Persons visiting him were asked to leave a contribution, and Rabbi Hoberman, who lived in poverty, distributed these funds, mainly to needy orphans and to Torah institutions.

## Galilee settlement boost

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Knesset yesterday voted to establish a "state institution" to plan, coordinate and promote population dispersal (to development towns) and increase Jewish settlement of the Galilee.

The House thus completed action on a motion for the agenda on the subject by Alignment MKs Yosef Sarid and Jacques Amir. But Sarid insisted that no hope for action along these lines could be expected unless a government ministry were set up for the purpose.

"Only a Cabinet-level body with the power to carry out policy can succeed," Sarid said.

Sarid, who moved from Tel Aviv to Kiryat Shmona more than a year ago — predicted the proportion of Jews residing in the

Galilee will continue to decline in the years to come "unless we admit right now we have failed, and take the agonizing action of starting all over again."

Some comments by other MKs: • Tzvi Tzvi (Communist): Charismatic talk of "Judaizing" the Galilee is just a cover for a policy of uprooting the Arabs from their lands there.

• Nissan Eiland (ILP): Stop further industrial development of the coastal strip between Nahariya and Ashkelon, and devote all energies to developing the Galilee for the benefit of both Jews and Arabs.

• Shimon Gross (Tora Front): Immigrants will not settle in the Galilee without assurance of sufficient religious services and facilities.

## Leket in line for Ofar's seat

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK. — Yehiel Leket, who is next in line for the Knesset seat left vacant by the death of Housing Minister Avraham Ofer, telephoned Jerusalem last night to discuss his immediate plans.

Leket, 35, was described as "in a state of shock" after hearing the news. He immediately put through a call to Uzi Narkiss, director-general of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department.

For the past year and a half, Leket has served as director of the Israel Aliya Centre here. He served as secretary of the Labour Party's Young Guard and earlier as spokesman of the Ministry of Education.

## Rivlin chosen head of JNF

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jewish Agency Director-General Moshe Rivlin was chosen yesterday as chairman of the Jewish National Fund directorate, replacing the retiring Ya'acov Tsor.

Rivlin, 52, a seventh-generation Israeli and a descendant of a prominent Jerusalem family, served as Israel consul-general in New York from 1952 to 1959. He joined the Jewish Agency's information department upon his return, and became Agency director-general in 1966.

Following his election by the directorate (he had no rival), Rivlin said he saw the deepening of ties between Israel and the Diaspora — through the Land of Israel — as his main assignment.

## RUMOURS OF SCANDAL

(Continued from page one)

that "most" of these allegations had been made by Laviv.

"This isn't a police investigation," the spokesman said. "It's a preliminary examination just to see what stage of the police investigation there is. If Laviv raises 30 or 40 or 50 subjects, we have to see what's being talked about. A police investigation implies that you have good reason to believe that something criminal is involved."

Knesset sources said earlier yesterday that the steps taken in a matter by Tamir and Olmert could only have come as a result of some police initiative. It is surmised that the police had come to a stage in their initial check of the "allegations" at which a deeper "investigation" was warranted. Launching such a full-fledged investigation against a cabinet minister on suspicion of criminal acts was obviously an act for which the police felt they needed the highest police clearance. Public pressure was needed. It is believed, to elicit such a political decision.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is known to have met with Justice Minister Haim Zadok, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Police Minister Hillel and Attorney-General

Aharon Barak, at his home on Saturday. Conjecture that they had discussed the latest developments in the Ofar case is still unconfirmed. It is believed, however, that the stage of the police investigation that it raised necessitated a high-level political decision in the matter at the time.

In a talk to employees of the Bank of Israel yesterday, Prime Minister Rabin angrily replied to a question on the Ofar rumours by saying that whether a man was guilty or innocent of criminal charges was within the exclusive purview of the courts. This statement followed press reports yesterday that Ofar had demanded that the Prime Minister issue a statement clearing him of the suspicions levelled against him.

Rabin presumably felt he could not do this as long as the police investigation continued and was still inconclusive. On the other hand, intensifying public interest in reports of the ongoing police investigation were proving of growing embarrassment to Rabin and to the Labour Party as the election campaigning got under way.

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## Radio news resumes as sanctions end

**GEORGE LEONOF**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The sanctions were imposed in support of the news staff's demands for elimination of organizational inadequacies and general reform, and additional pay for night work. The Authority had announced on Sunday that it was prepared to consider the news staff's demands for organizational reform, but would not consider removal of the heads of the news and newsprint departments — which the Authority claimed the staff had demanded — or the question of additional pay.

At a news conference on Monday night, the radio staff committee categorically denied demanding the replacement of the department heads, and said the question of pay was not an issue.

Meanwhile, the Broadcasting Authority is saddled with another work dispute involving sanctions by the administrative staffs of both television and radio.

Staff representatives on Sunday met for three hours with Education Minister Aharon Yadin, the Cabinet member responsible for broadcasting. They obtained an undertaking that he would agree to air their demands for a separate wage scale once the sanctions were dropped. The workers are to give their reply today.

Radio has been the worst hit by this dispute. Yesterday the Third programme was completely off the air, while the main First programme opened three hours late at 10 a.m. with subsequent gaps and unannounced changes.

The sanctions were imposed on January 3, 1977, after a seven-hour meeting between representatives of the locked-out newsroom staff and the management, set up by the Jerusalem Journalists Association.

It was agreed that all sanctions imposed by the newsroom staff since Wednesday would be lifted. The Broadcasting Authority's part would withdraw its order instructing all 15 members of the radio newsroom to take leave as of 6 p.m. Sunday.

The newsmen's complaints which marked the dispute will be taken up by a six-man party committee imposed of three representatives of the Authority and an equal number put up by the news staff and the Journalists Association. The committee's conclusions are then to be discussed between the management and the staff committee, which came to agreement within a week, the meeting decided.

The newsmen went off the air at 6 p.m. on Sunday following the Authority's ultimatum that it consider the newsroom staff as a bloc unless it discontinued the sanctions it had been imposing since last Wednesday. The loss involved gradual curtailment of news programmes. By Sunday more than half the news programmes had not been broadcast.



UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog, right, talks with 'Newsweek' correspondent Milan Kubic during press conference in Jerusalem yesterday. (Barzilai)

## Arabs want Geneva start by April, Herzog says

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

The Arabs are expected to make a determined attempt to reconvene the Geneva conference around April — before the general elections here — Ambassador to the UN Chaim Herzog told a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday.

Herzog, answering questions, said the Arab states would probably seek to have at least one conference session by April. But he said, the new U.S. Administration felt that "rushing the process" would be dangerous. "Much will depend on us, on what (UN Secretary-General) Kurt Waldheim hears in his planned tour of the area, and on Washington and the Soviet Union — the co-chairmen of the conference," he said.

After offering glowing praise for outgoing U.S. Ambassador to the UN William Scranton, Herzog said when asked whether he predicted any change in the U.S. stand at the UN — said Scranton's successor, Andrew Young, a Black, would soon learn that "not everything is black and white" at the UN and of the hypocrisy there.

## Israelis who met PLO 'burned' by denial

**By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — There is "no chance" that Israel will ever "lift its boycott" against the Palestine Liberation Organization, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said here yesterday. He said that prominent Israelis who "home in like moths to a flame" on meetings with the PLO "get burned."

Appearing before Technion students, the Foreign Minister did not mention the names of Ahuf (res.) Mattityahu Peled and other members of the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace, but he made clear reference to them. He said that they had "learned their error" yesterday, when PLO reaction to the (Peled) statement made on Sunday "did not have the ring of historic importance" that had been attached to it.

(Peled said on Sunday that his council had received agreement for a statement which backed the right of Israel to exist side-by-side with a Palestinian state. The Peled statement was denied Sunday night and yesterday by PLO leader Farouk Kaddoumi and by the PLO news agency, Wafa.)

Allon said that he opposed meetings between Jewish or Israeli personalities and PLO representatives. He noted that he had just received a document setting out the views of an "Arab political personality" I cannot name, who had "expressed his astonishment that Jews and Israelis are prolonging the life of the PLO as a political factor by holding regular meetings with them, and creating the impression that the PLO will be a partner for future negotiations with Israel."

"Let there be no illusion," he said. "There is no chance and no hope that the PLO, whose Palestinian National Covenant is an Arabic 'Mein Kampf' which in three separate paragraphs calls for the destruction of Israel, and which employs base fighting methods against our civilians, can represent the Palestinian people, or can even hope that Israel lift its boycott against it."

"I'd advise the Israelis to leave foreign policy to the elected government," Allon said.

As a result of the "grave role" the PLO played in the Lebanese war, some important Arab countries were beginning to change their attitude towards it, Allon said. Despite the Rabat conference decision, these states might encourage Jordan to return to the picture.

Allon said the Geneva conference "will not reconvene" on the basis of last month's UN General Assembly resolution. He was referring to a General Assembly resolution which included the Palestinian Liberation Organization as one of the participants in the renewed Geneva talks. He said that Israel proposed the convening of the conference, without delay, on the basis of Security Council Resolution 338 — with its original participants and procedures. If the Arabs wanted to include Lebanon as a participant, Allon said, they could raise this as a proposal at the conference.

Allon expressed doubt that the conference would meet in the near future. He did not rule out the possibility of bilateral negotiations with each of the Arab states, with American mediation.

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## Violence keeps Zim freighter in African port

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

HAIFA. — An outbreak of violence on an Israeli freighter, now in the Nigerian port of Lagos, was reported by her master, Yoram Gal, yesterday. He wired the Marine Officers Union here that the sailors had stolen arms from the ship's stores and created an atmosphere of "near bloodshed, violence and fear" on board.

The freighter, owned by Zim and flying a foreign flag, is engaged on the Africa-East route. She is manned by 15 Israeli seamen, five officers and a number of Chinese sailors. It is believed that the fight broke out over alleged pilfering of cargo by members of the crew.

Captain Gal informed the Union that though the men had stolen arms from the ship's store, he was in full control of the situation. He is refusing to sail until at least some of the seamen, including the bosun, are dismissed. He also cabled the (Zim) company about the incident.

Officers Union secretary Adam Chislik told The Jerusalem Post that the Union had wired its full support to the ship's master and ordered him not to sail until all ratings who had been involved in violence and mutinous action were paid off.

## portoto agent disappears, IL150,000 said missing

**By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A. — A general agent of the toto football pool in Haifa has disappeared. The agent, Shlomo Yan, 53, had not been seen since Friday, after he had sent the pool forms to the Tel Aviv quarters.

Jerusalem Post learned that he had not forwarded the money as forms, said to be more than 150,000, and it is believed that he has left the country. According to rumours he had borrowed a capital at high interest. Ready about 11 a.m. is involved. Sportoto official told The Post all the Haifa forms for last day's matches had been forwarded to the headquarters, and "everybody in Haifa who soccer results will get his full share." He confirmed that the forms had not been forwarded. A senior official, Ya'acov Shmadoiv, came to Haifa just after noon yesterday to investigate. He told The Post that Grinspan had worked for Sportoto for five years, and his work had always been satisfactory. The police have been informed. But he could not be reached for comment.

The Toto fans have no complaints. Their winnings are honoured, as promised, and the "black capitalist" leaders are unlikely to appeal to the police for fear of drawing attention to themselves.

Last year a Haifa insurance agent, David Sandu, left the country, leaving large debts mainly to "black capitalists," and for many weeks no complaints were lodged with the police. He has not yet returned.

The Sportoto agency is located in a central spot, on the corner of Hanev'im and Shabetai Levy Streets in the Hader.

## Govt. responds on NRP suit

The Supreme Court yesterday heard the Prime Minister's and the Government's responses to an application by a Tel Aviv student on the participation of National Religious Party Ministers in the Cabinet.

The government response was signed by Dr. Michael Nir, deputy Cabinet secretary, and took the position that the NRP was in the same situation as if the whole Knesset faction of that party had voted against the Government in a no-confidence debate.

The application by the student, Haim Stenger, claims that the resignation of the NRP Ministers is illegal. He points out that Interior Minister Yosef Burg did not vote against the Government, and thus the situation is different from one in which an entire faction had voted no-confidence in the Government — in which case its Ministers would be presumed to have been dismissed.

The Government response was entered after the court decided to hear Stenger's application together with others arising out of the Government's resignation. The hearing, before a five-man bench, will take place on Wednesday. (Tik)

## Bat Yam mayor would quit rather than compromise

**By SARAH HONIG**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BAT YAM. — Mayor Yitzhak Walker, who lost his City Council majority on Sunday, said yesterday that he will step down from office "if keeping it will mean any compromises that would involve public interest or funds."

Walker, who previously had a majority of one in the 21-member council, may lose his office at the council meeting scheduled for January 12. Three members of his Likud faction — Yehuda Shkel and Maurice Abutbul of Herut, and David Messika, most recently of La'am — have dropped out of the coalition.

Walker told The Jerusalem Post that there are still attempts at mediation, although the three said they would return only if someone else replaced Walker. Walker said he is "not averse to making concessions which only involve prestige, but I will not hold on to office at any price. I will not give away municipal portfolios nor delegate authority in cases where I previously saw fit not to do so."

He told The Post that the three councilmen had asked that he guarantee in writing to put them on the City Council list for the upcoming elections and that he would appoint them as deputies if re-elected. "This I cannot ethically promise," he insisted. "I am not a party dictator and there are accepted democratic processes."

Meanwhile, the Alignment municipal faction hasn't asked that a motion to vote the mayor out of office be included on the next City Council agenda. The Alignment itself seems divided on the issue. Those favouring such a motion, reportedly including former Mayor Menachem Rothschild, say that because elections are around the corner, it would be worthwhile for Labour to take over City Hall, even if for a few weeks.

Others say that this would be playing straight into Walker's hands, because he would win the electorate sympathy by assuming that the Alignment were partners in "wheeling-dealing" on the eve of the polls. Those who oppose a Labour takeover claim it would be better to let matters deteriorate at City Hall, until the lack of a municipal majority for any faction would result in the appointment of a committee to run the city for the months prior to the elections.

Walker told The Post that while he would "prefer to run for re-election as mayor," he does not "feel that loss of office would result in losses at the polls. If early local elections are called in May, public sympathy will be on my side," he claimed.

**Zim ships sail**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The Marine Officers Union and Zim reached agreement on Sunday night in the dispute over fringe payments to officers on board a company tanker and the 30,000-ton grain carrier, the Avdat.

Following the settlement, the union enabled the two ships, whose sailing had been held up, to proceed.

**Composer's piano stolen**  
TEL AVIV. — Composer Nahum Nardi's return home after a stay in hospital was marred by a discordant note yesterday, when he found that the piano which he has used for many years for composing was missing.

The 75-year-old Nardi learned from neighbours that while he was in hospital, a number of men had entered his apartment in mid-December and loaded the instrument onto a van.

The police are investigating.

**Doctor in sit-down**  
MA'ALOT. — Kupat Holim physician Zvi Kolkovskiy Sunday began a sit-down strike at the local council offices, in protest against "impossible conditions" at his clinic.

The clinic is being expanded and the doctor claims that the noise, dust and disturbance from the builders makes his work impossible. He wants the council to provide an alternate building until the job is completed.

The council offered to place two flats at the disposal of the clinic until the work is completed. The offer was rejected on the grounds that the flats were unsuitable. The other physicians at the clinic are continuing their services, but back Dr. Kolkovskiy's demand.

## Ministry men jailed for bribery

AVIV. — Four Defence Ministry employees who were found taking bribes from transport contractors were sentenced to terms ranging from two years to 18 months at the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Judge Dov Levin passed sentences to four, all employees of the Defence Ministry's transport and demance department, who were guilty by the same count two years ago.

Shak Rubin, 40 from Ra'anana, former director of the transport in the ministry department, was sentenced to two years imprisonment and fined IL11,000. He was found guilty of taking IL20,000 from transport contractors in receiving a special price for his son's vacation in an Egged summer camp.

Yisrael Rosensweig, 53, from Holon was sent to jail for two years with a one-year suspended sentence, and a IL5,000 fine. The court found him guilty of taking bribes totalling IL5,000, and of receiving free bus passes for his family from Egged.

Eliyahu Cohen, 31, from Bat Yam, was sentenced to nine months in jail with a nine-month suspended sentence and a IL5,000 fine for taking IL35,000 in interest-free loans from Defence Ministry contractors.

Gavriel Kol-Namer, 42, also from Bat Yam, was sentenced to six months in jail with a six-month suspended sentence and a IL2,000 fine for taking a IL4,000 interest-free loan from a ministry contractor.

## More Black Hebrews enter country, Dimona says in urgent plea

**By HAIM SHAHAM**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

DIMONA. — The mayor of Dimona and town leaders have sought urgent action to deal with the Black Hebrew sect, whose members, they claim, have brought the social situation in the town "near explosion."

In letters to the Ministers of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice and Police, Dimona mayor Armand Laredo, his deputy, the head of the local labour council and the local rabbi claim that another 23 Black Hebrews from the U.S. have recently joined the Dimona community. They say that the new additions to the 500 Black Hebrews already in Dimona, entered the country despite instructions to immigration officials at Ben-Gurion Airport not to allow them to enter.

The Dimona leaders said that the Black Hebrews have moved into new neighbourhoods, besides the Nitzahon neighbourhood where they have lived packed with as many as 30 people in each 64 square metre flat. They said many residents of the Nitzahon quarter have recently moved to other quarters, or left the town.

The Foreign Ministry answered the letter of the Dimona leaders, saying that the Black Hebrews are the affair of the Interior Ministry. The Interior Ministry spokesman said that the former Interior Minister, Yosef Burg, was due to present the problem to the Cabinet before the Government crisis forced his resignation. He said that the present Interior Minister, Premier Yitzhak Rabin, would deal with the Black Hebrews.

The Black Hebrews are a sect of blacks from the U.S. who claim that they, and not the Jews, are the real descendants of the Biblical Israelites.

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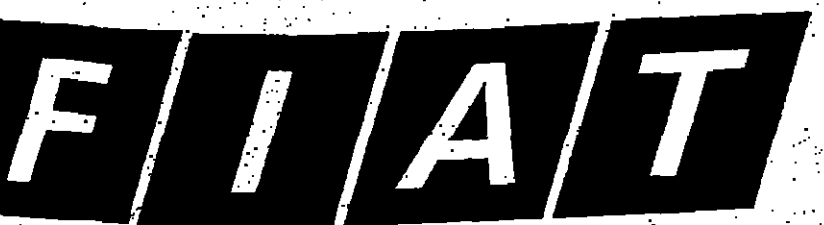
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# Nixon helped Nazi war criminal get U.S. residence, author says

By ERNEST VOLKMAN

Special from 'Newday'

NEW YORK. — A pro-Nazi Rumanian industrialist who financed a fascist group that carried out the public slaughter of thousands of Jews during World War II was able to obtain sanctuary in the U.S. with the direct aid of Richard Nixon, according to a forthcoming book on Nazi war criminals living in the U.S.

The book, "Wanted: The Search for Nazis in America," by Howard Blum, presents documentary evidence showing how the industrialist, Nicolae Malaxa, and Nixon set up a complex business scheme during the 1950s, when Nixon was a senator, to block efforts by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Ser-

vice to deport Malaxa.

Neither Nixon nor other principals in the case could be reached for comment.

Malaxa, who died in 1968, was considered the richest man in Rumania during the 1930s. He controlled a network of lucrative armaments plants, and in 1940 he signed an agreement with Hermann Goering, integrating his factories with the Nazi war industry.

According to author Blum, newly discovered German Foreign Ministry documents from World War II show that Malaxa financed the Rumanian Iron Guard, a virulently anti-Semitic fascist group. In 1941, the Iron Guard carried out a series of pogroms in Bucharest. In a violent outbreak that repelled even Nazis in

Germany, the Iron Guard slaughtered Jews in the streets and hacked their bodies. Jewish children were killed and hung on meat hooks at a packing house.

After the war, Malaxa was jailed in Rumania for a short period. He applied for entry to the U.S. in 1948 as a displaced person. In a successful effort to retrieve millions of dollars that had been seized by the U.S. during the war as enemy property, Malaxa hired several prominent attorneys, including the law firm of former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

Next, Blum says, Malaxa moved against a ruling by the Immigration Service that he was unfit to hold American citizenship because of his involvement in the Iron Guard atrocities against Jews. In 1951, then-Senator Richard Nixon introduced a private bill granting Malaxa permanent residence in the U.S.

The bill was blocked, but, Blum says, Nixon and Malaxa then worked out a complicated deal that finally got Malaxa his citizenship. Malaxa organized a new company called Western Tube Corp., with the same corporate address as Nixon's law firm in Whittier, California. Nixon's law partner subsequently was named secretary of the corporation. Then, Western Tube applied to the Federal Government for priority for its equipment and personnel, since the seamless oil-well tubing it was to manufacture was considered critical to defense needs during the Korean War.

Blum says Nixon personally pushed the application through government channels until it was granted in 1953, and Malaxa was admitted to the U.S. as a permanent resident. But, Blum says, Western Tube never materialized. He charges the corporation was a subterfuge to get Malaxa into the U.S.

Said one Justice Department official familiar with the case: "To me, the Malaxa case made what Nixon did later in Watergate look like a school picnic. He knew exactly what Malaxa was, and the evidence is quite strong that he got a lot of dough for his two years' work. Funny, there were a few people who knew about the Western Tube case but it never got much attention up to now."

The Western Tube case attracted a brief flurry of attention in 1953, when several Congressmen, including the late Emmanuel Celler (Democrat, New York), then chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, complained in Congress that the company application was a "shell game" cooked up by Malaxa to obtain resident status for an accused Nazi war criminal.

Celler, who was instrumental in blocking Nixon's earlier private bill on Malaxa, called the case "suspicious" and noted that, ironically, many victims of Nazi war crimes were unable to enter the U.S. In 1958, the Immigration Service again moved against Malaxa, ordering his deportation as an "undesirable" following several months of eyewitness testimony alleging his involvement in war crimes.

Malaxa, backed by a battery of prominent attorneys, including several former Immigration Service officials then in private law practice, appealed the ruling. The Immigration Appeals Board overruled the deportation order, and that decision was affirmed by then-U.S. Attorney General William Rogers, a personal friend of Nixon.

(Distributed by the Los Angeles Times - Washington Post News Service)



Jihan Sadat, daughter of Egypt's president, poses with her husband, engineer Mahmoud Osman during their wedding ceremony in Cairo on Sunday night. (AP radiophoto)

## 'Ulster Protestants making guns for street battles'

BELFAST. — The Ulster Defence Association (UDA), biggest of Northern Ireland's Protestant street armies is manufacturing its own submachine guns and plans to equip 1,500 of its men with the new weapon, the "Daily Express" newspaper reported yesterday.

The paper quoted an unidentified UDA official as saying the weapons

are designed for close-quarter street fighting.

"We're not talking about picking someone off here and there," the official was quoted as saying. "We're talking about pitched battles."

However, John Orchin, a senior officer in the paramilitary UDA, denied the "Express" report.

"It's utter nonsense," he told the Associated Press. "There is no secret factory turning out these mythical weapons. As far as we're concerned, this is simply black propaganda put out by the British army to give them an excuse to search Protestant areas for arms."

Spokesmen at army headquarters declined comment, but military intelligence sources have said for some time that both Protestant and Roman Catholic extremist organizations have been attempting to produce their own weapons.

The outlawed Irish Republican Army's Provisional Wing has been using sophisticated home-made mortars, with rocket-propelled shells, for months in attacks against army bases. The military have captured dozens of them.

Last fall, Protestant terrorists began using home-made flame-throwers which they said were designed for street warfare — primarily for use in full-scale attacks on Catholic ghettos in the event of all-out sectarian civil war.

The "Express" said the UDA's new weapon is modelled on the British army's Sterling, one of the best lightweight sub-machineguns in military use. The weapon, designed to take the Sterling's 34-round magazine of 9mm ammunition, is made piece by piece in separate workshops, the paper said. (AP)

## Amin enjoys viewing Entebbe film

NAIROBI. — President Idi Amin of Uganda has shown "Victory at Entebbe," a movie about the Israeli commando raid on Entebbe Airport in July, for his friends and decided he likes it, even though it portrays a defeat for his army, Kenya's "Daily Standard" reported yesterday.

The paper said Amin initially had

decided to screen the movie in Uganda "to show how stupid it is," but instead found it enjoyable.

Amin was quoted as saying: "I'm portrayed very well in the film." The burly president is played by American actor Julius Harris in the U.S.-made movie, which stars Elizabeth Taylor, Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster. (AP)

## Rebellion may pre-date Mao's death

HONGKONG. — One of China's top leaders, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien, said an "excellent" situation of "united struggle" prevails throughout the country and those who had hoped for violent disturbances following the death of Mao Tse-tung have been disappointed.

But even as Li spoke, Chinese radio broadcasts reported more disturbances caused by the "Gang of Four" — Mao's widow, Chiang Ching, and her three radical associates.

Most of the reports gave no dates but their wording clearly indicated that most of the incidents had occurred months — or even years ago.

The West German DPA news agency quoted Chinese sources who said no new pockets of resistance have developed after the October arrest of the "Gang of Four." This

indicated that the rebellion broke out before the purge.

But the sources stressed that "the government and army still have the task of liquidating the widely dispersed rebellion."

The stronghold of the rebellion was in Szechwan, a rice bowl province in south-west China with a population of 68 million. There "many hundreds, if not thousands, of persons have died in civil war-like disturbances," the report said.

The rebels reportedly fought with handmade spears and stone axes as well as some guns provided by militia units controlled by Chiang Ching's radical supporters.

"Problems" are also continuing in Peking, 90 miles south of Peking in Hopeh province, where rebels are holding positions and destroying factories, the German dispatch said.

The Chinese army has taken over railway operations in one of the country's key rail junctions, according to a provincial radio report monitored in Hongkong.

Kuo Wei-cheng, a deputy commander of the army's railway corps for more than 20 years, has been put in charge of the Chengchow railway bureau, the Roman radio broadcast said on Sunday. Two other new leaders, including a high-ranking officer of the army engineering corps, were also appointed to the bureau and Peking authorities sent troops to help "in accordance with requirements," the broadcast said.

The new leaders were introduced at a mass rally held in Chengchow on December 30, the broadcast said. (AP, UPI)

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## Vorster-Richard talks on Rhodesia 'helpful'

OUBOSTRAND, South Africa. — South African Prime Minister John Vorster and Ivor Richard, Britain's Rhodesia envoy, yesterday held three hours of what Richard called "useful, helpful and constructive" talks.

Richard, chairman of the ad hoc committee on Rhodesia, was believed to have tried to win Vorster's approval for Britain's proposals to save the stalled talks on Rhodesia's future.

Britain's proposals include installing a resident British commissioner in Rhodesia during a two-year transition from white to majority rule.

Vorster, vacationing at his seaside home here, is expected to support the Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith in his determined stand not to change the Anglo-American peace "package" agreed with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Pretoria last September.

At the end of his meeting with Vorster, Richard said he hoped to meet the South African leader again "in a week or two." Neither would comment on the discussions but informed sources said they were free and frank. (Reuters)

## Egyptian divers find Churchill's submarine

CAIRO. — The submarine Winston Churchill and El Al, a British Royal Navy ship, used to escape from Axis air raid in 1943 was sunk in Egypt's Mediterranean sea, said a spokesman for the Egyptian navy.

The submarine was sunk by German a short time after Churchill used it for his escape. It found 30 metres from the shore, Egyptian divers working on the site of the port. (AP)

## Iran to trade oil for UK arms

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Iran and the big British arms firm, Vickers, have agreed to barter oil for defence equipment. This is the first time that any company has agreed to receive oil instead of cash payment.

Vickers executives will go to Iran this week to discuss the Shah of Iran's insistence on acceptance of oil instead of money for defence equipment. This apparently reflects Iranian financial difficulties under its over-ambitious industrial development programme.

Vickers is producing part of a multi-million dollar British defence deal with Tehran, in the form of 250 armoured recovery vehicles worth \$80m. Iran has also ordered other sophisticated equipment in Britain.

A spokesman for Vickers commented on the problems involved in the oil barter, saying that the Shah's insistence on oil was a result of the Iranian oil industry's need for cash. It is expected that the deal will be called in the near future. (AP)

## Humphrey, Byrd seek Senate post

WASHINGTON. — Democratic members of the U.S. Senate meet today to elect a successor to Mike Mansfield as their leader. The rival candidates are former Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and Robert Byrd, the party's deputy Senate leader.

A conference of Republican senators also will be held to choose their party leaders. The eight new Republican senators were to meet yesterday with actual or potential candidates for party leadership posts.

Byrd has been the acknowledged front-runner for the Democratic leadership post. But David Galtner, Humphrey's administrative assistant, told a reporter that "we still think we have a chance" and that "the key thing" is that the vote will be by secret ballot.

Galtner said two or three senators have urged Humphrey privately to drop out, telling him they were going to vote for him even though they are publicly committed to Byrd. Byrd had no comment on Galtner's statement. Byrd has been the party leader since 1972, when he replaced Edward Kennedy.

Mansfield, who served as Senate Democratic leader for years, didn't run for re-election in the new Congress.

On the Republican side, Robert Griffin is the only avowed candidate for minority leader. Howard Baker is a potential candidate for a post, but he is still waiting to see what his chances are before deciding whether to have his name put before the party conference. (AP)

## Breira urges Jews to meet PLO

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Breira, an anti-establishment American Jewish organization, has begun distributing a petition urging Jews in the U.S. to begin meeting members of the Palestine Liberation Organization on a private basis.

Two members of Breira, Arthur Waskow and Rabbi Max Tietlin, were part of a five-member group of U.S. Jewish leaders who met privately here in November with two PLO representatives, Dr. Issa

Sartawi and Sabri Jiryis. Most American Jewish organizations condemned the meeting, and called their members to avoid any contact with the PLO in the future.

Breira's latest initiative speaks to the private context of the November meeting, and says that it supports more meetings on the same basis. Robert Loeb, executive director of the organization, says that Breira does not support the PLO, but does support every effort to promote Middle East peace. (AP)

## Jazz pianist Erroll Garner dies

LOS ANGELES. — Jazz pianist and composer Erroll Garner died here on Sunday on the way to hospital, after a heart attack aged 53.

Garner, whose best-known works include "Misty," "Dreamy," "Solitaire," and "Gallop," was released from hospital after treatment for a lung condition last month.

He made his debut in his home town of Pittsburgh at age seven, playing in a radio ensemble called the Candy Kids.

He went on to perform in New

York's Carnegie Hall and in Paris and was many times a soloist with major symphony orchestras. He also wrote film music.

Garner could not read music and rarely played a tune the same way twice, a fact which probably dissuaded imitators.

"They may think they are imitating me but I'm always changing things," he said.

Garner is survived by a twin brother and three sisters. (AP, Reuters)

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Questionnaire forms may be obtained in person or by post from the Personnel Department, or at Municipal Information Bureaus. Applications without the required certificates will not be considered. Last date for submitting applications: January 17, 1977.

SELOMO LAHAT, Mayor

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## AVRAHAM OFER

THE TRAGIC death yesterday of Abraham Ofer stunned the nation. The suicide note found near his body expressed the anguish which led him to this final desperate act.

Tormented by an inquiry and the rumours and reports which fed on it, Abraham Ofer, the public man, felt his world collapsing. The private man, convinced of his innocence, tragically saw death as his only escape.

But Ofer's suicide cannot be considered simply in terms of the personal tragedy. The investigation which prompted it will have to be reconsidered, not simply in terms of his death, but also in the light of his final protestation of innocence and his confidence that the truth will redeem him.

In this situation the government would appear beholden to the public to disclose the circumstances of the inquiry which led to Mr. Ofer's death.

## PLO plays

REPORTING to the press on Sunday on his weekend talks in Paris with a leading PLO functionary, Dr. Mattityahu Peled, who is chairman of the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace, described the joint communiqué which ensued as "an historic breakthrough."

By his own account, this was no mere hyperbole. For in that communiqué the PLO appeared to accept in principle the peaceful coexistence of a Jewish-Zionist State of Israel and an Arab Palestine, across a common frontier running roughly along the old armistice line. Whatever its worth, this was somewhat astonishing. Only a fortnight earlier the PLO's Executive Committee met in Damascus, and the farthest it departed from the language of the Palestinian Covenant was in not saying that a "national authority" set up in a part of the homeland would eventually have to embrace all of Palestine.

But, added Dr. Peled, sarcastically, he now fully expected the Israel Foreign Ministry to come out with a statement branding the Paris talks as a smokescreen designed to mislead the public.

This prediction has not, so far, been borne out. What has, in fact, happened was that an unnamed PLO source in Beirut immediately blasted as "entirely unfounded" the report "spread by the Zionist enemy" that the PLO was prepared to recognize Israel as an independent Jewish State. This was at once followed by a formal denial, from the PLO's political chief, Farouk Kaddumi, to the effect that no representative of his organization had signed any document regarding Palestine "with Mr. Peled."

Undaunted, Peled hastened to endorse the denial: there was no signed document, he readily conceded, but there was a joint communiqué.

But that was clearly not the point of Kaddumi's denial. What was being denied was the assumption that the anonymous functionary apparently Dr. Issa Sartawi — was authorized by the PLO to come to any sort of understanding with the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace. Let alone the sort of understanding spelled out by Dr. Peled.

True, the PLO is speaking with many voices these days. One of these belongs to Dr. Sartawi, who has lately been active on both sides of the Atlantic trying to persuade public opinion, both gentile and Jewish, that the Middle East conflict would come to an end as soon as Israel recognized the Palestinians' right to self-determination in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Another voice belongs to Abu Al-Khair, the PLO's official representative in Khartoum. In an interview with the Sudanese News Agency only yesterday Al-Khair said a Palestine State in a part of the country would only serve as a "concrete base" from which to continue the armed struggle for Israel's complete liquidation.

What Peled would have us believe is that, if only Israel smiled on Dr. Sartawi, the shrill noises of Al-Khair would easily be stilled. This is, of course, the conventional wisdom of the UN corridors. But it is the product of the marriage of wishful thinking and a short memory. On the matter of Palestinian self-determination, especially via the PLO, the proper address is not Jerusalem but Amman, and Cairo, and Damascus.

Interestingly, the Governments in these Arab capitals do not seem to share the Israel Peace Council's obsession with Palestinian independence. Experience has taught them to be wary of the PLO. That may very well be the reason why some PLO leaders have decided that by baiting some *bona fide* Israeli Zionists they could counter the estrangement of their supposed Arab patrons.

## VIEWPOINT

# Lip-service to integration

By MICHAEL SHASHAR

AN EDUCATIONAL drama is currently taking place in Jerusalem. For the first time, parents decided to go on strike and not send their children to several state religious schools in the capital. They did this not because they wanted appropriate school buildings, or central heating in the classrooms during the winter, but simply because they were worried about the quality of education their children are getting.

The educational standards in these schools are being seriously undermined as a result of the contradictory policies implemented by the various education authorities (the Municipality, on the one hand, and the Ministry of Education, on the other). The situation has reached the stage where parents have no choice but to go on strike, and to demonstrate in order to present their just cause to the public through the media.

In Jerusalem, as in many other places in Israel, integration and reform in the education system is not taken seriously. The authorities are supposedly striving for genuine integration between children from affluent families and children who belong to the disadvantaged strata of Israeli society. However, the same authorities are also doing everything in order to defeat this goal.

In order for this integration to be successful, a certain ratio must be maintained between the two groups. Educationalists agree unanimously that the ratio should be 80:40 in favour of the "affluent," or at least 50:50. These figures are accepted by many religious parents who not only feel responsible for their children's education but are also showing civic and national responsibility for the future of Israeli society.

WHAT HAVE the education authorities done? As a result of their own policies, they have authorized the opening of "private schools" in which most of the children belong to "blue-blooded" families. What is even more difficult to accept, however, is that the budget for these schools, as for all other schools, comes from the ordinary tax-payer.

As a result of the legitimization of these "private" schools by the authorities, a growing number of affluent parents are sending their children to them, while the state religious schools are practically abandoned and attended mostly by "disadvantaged" pupils. This makes

a complete nonsense of the principle of integration and the price we shall all pay will be a heavy one.

THE National Religious Party, which is supposed to take care of religious education in Israel, should have opposed this policy. But narrow and immediate party considerations rather than educational and long-range national interests, guide its policy — a policy designed to curry favour with the narrow circle of parents who send their children to private schools. It appears also that officials in the Municipality and in the Education Ministry feel that they don't have to be more Catholic than the Pope, namely the NRP, and have done nothing to prevent this erosion.

So it is up to the parents of children in state religious schools, and the principals and the teachers in these schools, to do their best, despite the obstacles in their way, to promote genuine integration for the sake of our future generations.

What they ask is that once their children enter the "intermediate division," the ratio between the advantaged and the disadvantaged should be maintained as far as possible. In this way, all Israeli children get an appropriate education and grow up to be the sons of one united nation.

## READERS' LETTERS

### THE RIGHT TO BAIL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post  
Sir, — As one who practised law in the United States, I find the decision denying Asher Yadin bail shocking.

The ostensible reason for the ruling is that, if released, Yadin would have access to persons whom he may influence in his favour.

When the State drew up the charges against Yadin, it must have had what, in its judgement, was evidence sufficient to warrant conviction. Presumably, this evidence included the statements of persons the State will call as witnesses. The fear that Yadin would try to influence these people is groundless, for Yadin must be given credit for knowing that no court would give credence to a witness who retracted or contradicted testimony he had offered during the investigatory stage. If the fear is that Yadin would influence people unknown to the investigating authorities, the answer

is twofold: one, if he influences them to tell the truth, that is his legal right; two, if it is legitimate to detain a person because of the fear that he will influence people to offer false testimony, the State could abolish the right to bail with impunity, for this possibility exists in every case.

The question I ask is: What feeling of inferiority has gripped the State to imply that it could not outwit Yadin in the event the conduct of his defence would show that he took advantage of his freedom while out on bail to build up a defence to which he is not entitled?

What disturbs me above all and what goes to the very heart of the right to bail is: Suppose Yadin eventually proves his innocence. How will he be compensated for the deprivation of his liberty and for being denied the society of his family and friends while awaiting trial?

ABRAHAM S. HYMAN  
Jerusalem

### STAMPS ON ARCHAEOLOGY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post  
Sir, — We refer to your story of December 21 about the new archaeological stamp series put out by the Philatelic Service, according to which the Yadin Committee was disappointed that the Philatelic Service had not consulted with the Antiquities Department in the preparation of the series. (The Yadin Committee includes representatives of the Israel Exploration Society, the Hebrew University Archaeology Institute, the Antiquities Department of the Education Ministry, the Tourism Ministry and the Municipality. (See Jerusalem Post.)

Professor Binyamin Mazar, head of the excavations on the periphery of the Temple Mount, suggested the archaeological stamp series and also

told the Philatelic Service whom to consult in its preparation. The series was prepared under expert guidance and the comment of the above-mentioned committee is just as offensive to its colleagues as to the Philatelic Service.

The institution with which the Philatelic Service cooperated in the preparation of the stamps is called "The Hebrew University of Jerusalem — The Israel Exploration Society — Archaeological Excavations in Jerusalem" and a more expert institution would be hard to find. It is therefore difficult to figure out who is complaining about whom.

Z. MIZROTSKY  
Spokesman,  
Ministry of Communications  
Jerusalem.

### UNION IS STRENGTH

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post  
Sir, — Just a brief word of support to the appeal of "bewildered citizen" Judith Lelyveld (December 28) for unification of and cooperation among the various groupings which should merge into one strong centre bloc.

To this reader too, it is absolutely incomprehensible why such groupings as Yadin-Shinar's D.M.C., Shulamit Aloni's C.R.M. and Shamus Tamir's F.C. do not combine resources right now. United they will stand — divided they may fall.

YA'ACOV YANNA  
Jerusalem.

## POSTSCRIPTS

BETWEEN 1933 and 1945, more than 100 Jewish citizens of the little German town of Herne-Wanne-Eickel in the Ruhr fell victim to the Nazis.

A week before Rosh Hashana last year, on September 19, 1976, the town dedicated a memorial plaque at the entrance to its Sports Park. The main speaker at the ceremony was a 22-year-old Jerusalem physician, Dr. Julius Leiser. Once the chairman of the local Jewish community, he had pressed the Town Council to commemorate its former citizens. Dr. Leiser's step-daughter, who now also lives in Jerusalem, was only 14 when she was taken to the gas chambers. Hers is the only known case of a person managing to get out alive just before the actual gassing.

The inscription on the memorial plaque reads: "In memory of the Jewish congregation of Wanne-Eickel and of the Jewish citizens of this town who fell victim to Nazi tyranny in the years between 1933 and 1945."

J. L.

to People Everywhere." Its aim is to give a Kenyan girl whose family is too poor to afford school fees "the chance to be educated through high school and to grow into a confident, enlightened and mature African woman."

Brother John writes: "If the Entebbe incident taught anything, it was the need for cooperation and willingness to sacrifice and even die if a human life is worth living." He believes that Kenya and Israel are alike in many ways: young, struggling, willing to sacrifice and determined to be free, and he feels that R.O.P.E. is "one small way to bring the two peoples more together and at the same time help a young person in need."

He ends his letter with the word "Shalom."

THE ONLY decoration on the marble walls inside the VIP entrance to the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem is a poster with a newspaper headline announcing the rescue at Entebbe. It is meant to remind the denizens of those corridors of power — in these times of disunity and Government crisis — of the triumph and glory of last July?

Let a closer look at the poster reveal a sentence printed in red over the headline: "The secret of success is the success of the secret." The message, which comes from the Premier's security officer, means, of course, that Entebbe rescues are possible only if there are no leaks. A source informs us that another copy has been displayed near the toilet in the Prime Minister's bureau. It might be a good idea to tack one up in the Cabinet room as well.

J.S.

## Dry Bones



## Keeping British MPs honest

By GREVILLE JANNER, MP

"THE OFFER of money, or other advantage, to a Member of Parliament for the promoting of any matter whatsoever depending or to be transacted in Parliament is a high crime and misdemeanour." This resolution of the House of Commons in May, 1689, remains the basis of the required integrity of MPs.

Not long ago, an outspoken young Labour MP (since appointed a "Whip") alleged that a number of Members had surrendered their freedom of action to outside bodies in return for money. This allegation was referred to the MPs' own disciplinary body, the Committee of Privileges. They said: "Conduct such as Mr. Ashton alleged would itself amount to most grave contempt of the House. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that one of the most serious of Parliamentary offences is for Members to accept pecuniary or other reward in return for binding the freedom of their Parliamentary activities. Whilst Members may accept reward for advising outside bodies, there must be no condition, express or implied, that in return for that reward they will act in any particular way which would remove their Parliamentary independence."

Mr. Ashton withdrew his comments. But the argument rumbles on. In a system in which MPs are poorly paid, how far could or should they earn money through outside activities — connected or unconnected with their Parliamentary work?

The average British MP looks after some 90,000 people. If he is lucky, he has a small room in a Parliament building — but this is probably shared with at least one colleague. The same goes for his secretary.

For the last six years, I have done most of my Parliamentary work in a basement corridor in the "Interview Floor" — where rooms are set aside for MPs to interview constituents. Now even this dungeon haven is in the process of being converted into secretaries' accommodation.

AS FOR PAY, we get in the region of £8,000 per year, including expenses — for secretaries, travel, overnight expenses and the lot. To our Knesset friends, this may sound like a fortune. But they are not expected to deal with the individual problems of their constituents, because they have none (no constituents, that is). I get 40 to 50 letters a day, all of which must be answered — and almost my entire Parliamentary salary is spent on my Parliamentary work.

Never mind. As a Queen's Counsel, a writer, a lecturer and broadcaster I can manage nicely. Colleagues who have to live on their Parliamentary salaries (and there are many of them) have a very rough time. Some are lucky and live in or near London — but (literally) hundreds of others have to maintain two homes — one near Parliament, the other in their constituencies — or else make do with London lodgings.

A couple of weeks ago, we were "lobbied" by policemen, seeking higher pay — probably in breach of the current pay code, restricting change. They pointed out the danger of an underpaid police force — officers unable to pay their bills. The same argument could theoretically be applied to MPs.

In practice, I regard British Parliamentarians as among the most upright, energetic and devoted people I have ever known. In the main, they have anyway little or no power to bring contracts to those who need them. Not only would they not accept bribes but they are not worth bribing.

How do you find out if an interest is kept quiet? Suppose, for instance, that an MP is "consultant" to an Arab Government's British public relations outfit — how would anyone know?

A register is kept and Members are required to supply details of their extra-Parliamentary financial activities. Even overseas visits at the expense of foreign governments must be stated.

The extraordinary Enoch Powell has (alone) refused on principle to comply. The rest of us oblige, although, of course, if anyone should be playing parliamentary ducks and drakes, he will simply stay silent and no one will know.

Still, the register is designed to reassure the public that MPs are not using Parliament as a mask secretly to promote their own financial interests.

SOME TWO YEARS AGO, newspaper attacked Tony Crosland (now Foreign Secretary) for accepting gifts in return for performing parliamentary duties. Had he not been given a piece of valuable advice in return for opening a school?

Tony rummaged through a cupboard and unearthed a silver coffee pot, value £25. What was he meant to have done with it — hand it back?

Since my return from a visit to Rumania, I have retained excellent relations with the Rumanian Embassy. Recently, a diplomat presented my family and myself with some local Rumanian product — two bottles of wine and some delightful embroidery. The wine was duly consumed; the gift mentioned in the right quarters — in writing.

A friend at the Israel Embassy recently presented me with two paperbacks for Hanukkah — one by Buber and Kishon. I decided that neither would be likely to cause undue influence upon my work as a Member.

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## ISRAEL PRESS

### Labour hawks silent

SHA'ARIM (Poalei Agudat Yisrael) finds evidence of a marked trend in the Labour Party towards a consensus for withdrawal from Judea and Samaria, with the doves gaining strength and intensifying pressure while the hawks are showing little resistance, tending to join the dovish camp. This is the picture that has emerged from the discussions and declarations of Labour leaders over the past few days. While the doves, led by the external speaker of Mapam, openly and plainly call for territorial concessions in order to "buy" peace, the hawks have failed to come out with an effective response.


HA'ARETZ (Independent), referring to Matti Peled's reports of his meetings with PLO representatives in Paris and his claim that they agreed to accept the manifesto of the Israeli Council for Israel-Palestinian peace as a basis for negotiations, comments: "Such agreement does not tally with the resolutions passed by the PLO executive committee only a fortnight ago in Damascus, calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state 'on the national soil of the Palestinian Arabs' — i.e. far beyond the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. While the representatives met by Matti Peled agreed to such a state of

limited area, the secretary of 'A-Saika' has said that 'liberation of a part of Palestinian territory could only be a truce for a certain period.'"

The paper sees in these contradictory positions evidence of unrest in the PLO, perhaps due to a realization that, despite their persistent terrorism, the population of Israel continues to live its life normally, and the Christians in Lebanon have not been defeated.

"Apparently several Arab states are pressuring the PLO to accept a smaller state linked formally with Jordan. The purpose of those who met Peled was probably to influence Israeli public opinion against Jordan, and against Sadat's intentions, and towards recognizing a body which was not elected by the inhabitants of the occupied territories."

DAVAR (Histadrut), and AL HANISHMAR (Mapam) refer to the lockout of Israel Radio news. Both papers agree that the dispute over the running of the news desk should be settled in negotiations between the management and the union. Newscastrs should be restored immediately, with the management ending the lockout and the workers ending their industrial sanctions.



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